

It is not easy to point out the distinction of these species in words; but there cannot be a doubt about them when they are compared together.

I may here observe that *Delphinus eutropia* (Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1849, 1; Zool. Erebus & Terror, t. 34 ined.), which, in the 'Catalogue of Cetacea' in the British Museum, I have placed in the first section of *Tursia*, with *D. tursio* and the species above named, should be formed into a section of itself, characterized by having a very broad muzzle shelving on the sides, and the skull shelving down over the orbits, and thirty-four or thirty-five slender teeth on each side of each jaw. This section may be called EUTROPIA.

### 3. NOTICE OF A WINGLESS BIRD, OR MOHO, AND A RAVEN FOUND IN THE ISLAND OF HAWAII BY MR. W. H. PEASE. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

In a note lately received from Mr. W. H. Pease, dated Honolulu, Nov. 20, 1861, he observes, "I noticed in a late number of the 'Annals of Natural History' a description of a species of bird living in our islands (which was figured many years since in Dixon's 'Voyage'), by Mr. Gould; he refers it to the genus '*Moho*.'

"Please inform him that there is a *wingless bird* of small size living in the island of Hawaii, which the natives call '*Moho*,' which is now nearly extinct, having been killed off by the wild cats and dogs within late years; I have seen but a single specimen. There is also living there a species of Raven."

### 4. SOME REMARKS ON *AQUILA DESMURSII* (J. VERREAUX). BY J. H. GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.\*

M. Jules Verreaux, who first recognized this Eagle as a distinct species, communicated his description of it to Dr. Hartlaub, by whom the species was made known to ornithologists in his admirable work on the Ornithology of West Africa.

My present object is to put on record some information as to this interesting bird, with which M. Jules Verreaux has been so good as to supply me, and also to give some indications of the changes of plumage to which this species appears liable, and which I have had the opportunity of examining in several examples which now form part of the collection of the Norwich Museum.

It may, however, be well to premise a few general remarks with reference to the geographical distribution of this Eagle, and to some of the peculiarities by which it is distinguished.

*Aquila desmursii* has hitherto only been found in Tropical Africa, north of the Equator,—specimens having been obtained at Bissao

\* This paper will also be published in the Society's 'Transactions,' accompanied by a plate.

on the western coast, and also in Nubia and Abyssinia, and on the banks of the White Nile.

It is a small species, intermediate in size between *Aquila pennata* and *Aquila nævia*. From the former it is readily distinguishable by the greater length of all its measurements; from the latter (as also from *Aquila nævioides*) it may, on the contrary, be distinguished by its less size and, as Dr. Hartlaub well remarks, "by the more delicately shaped bill, and by the greater length of the tail" as compared with that of the wings.

Another well-marked distinction to which Dr. Hartlaub does not allude is to be found in the presence in *Aquila desmursii* of a well-defined, though small, occipital crest, consisting of from eight to nine pointed feathers, the longest of which are fully an inch and a half in length.

The colouring of this Eagle, described in Dr. Hartlaub's work, is that which characterizes what I believe to be the adult bird after it has newly moulted and has acquired its fresh plumage. In this dress the general colouring of *Aquila desmursii* closely resembles that of the adult of *Aquila nævioides* under similar conditions, being of a rufous brown, varying in intensity in different portions of the same feather.

Other specimens of *Aquila desmursii* exhibit a plumage of an extremely dark and almost uniform chocolate-colour. These individuals I believe to be immature birds, in which the feathers have been also newly acquired. In this stage they bear a considerable general resemblance in point of colouring to the immature specimens of *Aquila pennata*, though I have never met with an immature *Aquila pennata* quite so dark as some specimens I have seen of *Aquila desmursii*. In *Aquila desmursii*, as also in *Aquila nævioides*, both adult and immature birds appear liable to have their plumage exceedingly bleached by the action of the tropical sun; but it is remarkable that the feathers composing the occipital crest in *Aquila desmursii* appear to retain their original tint, notwithstanding the partial loss of colour from the above cause in the portions of the plumage immediately adjacent. It should also be remarked that, in some immature specimens, nearly the whole under surface is of a very pale whitish brown—a variation from the ordinary darker colouring which cannot be accounted for by the effect of sun and weather only.

In conclusion, I will add the remarks on this species communicated to me by M. Jules Verreaux, which are as follows:—"According to the notes of the collectors, the irides of the adult birds are of a chestnut-brown tinged with yellow; whilst in the young birds the yellow tint is absent, and the brown is deeper, with but little tinge of chestnut. The natives (at Bissao) give the name of 'Socolas' to this species only, it being well known to them as a very courageous bird, attacking even the small Gazelles (*Cephalophorus maxwelli*) which inhabit the same localities, and also preying on various birds, and especially the *Francolinus bicalcaratus*."